

MEETING MINUTES

Finance Committee

July 13, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Time – 7:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Mary O'Donoghue, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe, Mark Merritt, Stephen Stapinski and Paul Fortier.

Also present: Anthony J. Torrasi, Finance Director and Michael Mansfield, Fire/Rescue Chief.

MINUTES APPROVAL

May 13, 2009 – Mark Merritt moved and Paul Fortier seconded to approve the minutes of May 13, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously 8-0.

May 20, 2009 – Dick Howe moved and Mark Merritt seconded to approve the minutes of May 20, 2009. The motion was approved unanimously 8-0.

FY2009 END OF YEAR BUDGET TRANSFERS

Prior to voting, Chief Mansfield gave an explanation of a memo sent by him to the Board of Selectmen, dated June 18, 2009 (see attachment).

Dick Howe moved and Mark Merritt seconded to recommend approval of Motion #1 as written. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

Motion #2

Mark Merritt moved and Dick Howe seconded to recommend approval of Motion #2 as written (see attachment). The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Torrasi gave a budget update to Committee members. Lengthy discussion followed including the following concerns:

- Cherry Sheet down by \$657K.
- New Growth numbers expected by end of August, unlikely to get \$1M as budgeted.
- Final telecommunication bill that was passed changes State statute but does not give the Town additional funding.
- FY2009 Local Receipts estimated to be down by \$1M.
- Revenue budget for FY2010 down by \$700K, leaving a \$400K problem.
- Rate collections from property taxes do not affect the budget, but may affect Free Cash certification the following year.

- Consideration of cutting staff levels in both Town and School departments.
- How best to deal with unions without incurring labor laws litigation.
- Whether or not to offer an override to residents as one option of easing the deficit.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Finance Committee
2nd Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Regular Finance Committee
2nd Floor Conference Room
Monday, August 24, 2009
7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Lynch
Recording Secretary

FY2009 YEAR END BUDGET TRANSFER MOTION #1

I move to approve the following FY2009 Budget transfers in accordance with the provisions of Mass General Laws Chapter 44, Section 33B, clause b:

Transfer \$160,000 from Public Works- Other Expenses; \$70,000 from Public Safety- Other Expenses; \$19,000 from Community Development and Planning- Personal Services; and \$20,000 from Water- Other Expenses

And appropriate \$230,000 to Public Safety- Personal Services; \$19,000 to Community Development and Planning- Other Expenses; and \$20,000 to Water- Personal Services



Andover Fire Rescue

FIRE HEADQUARTERS

32 North Main Street • Andover, Massachusetts 01810-3513

Tel: (978) 475-1281 • Fax: (978) 475-6654

Michael B. Mansfield
Fire Chief

June 18, 2009

JUN 18 '09 PM 4:00

Board of Selectmen
Town of Andover, Massachusetts
36 Bartlet Street
Andover, Massachusetts 01810

Dear Selectmen,

As you may or may not be aware, Andover Fire Rescue will experience a budget shortfall of approximately \$230,000 to close out FY 2009.

This shortfall was predicted as early as last November by my office and had there not been several adjustments made to many programs, including shift leveling, the shortfall would have been greater.

Attached, is a brief synopsis of why the shortfall exists and to demonstrate to you that the deficit is due to the following:

- Long term sick leave usage by three firefighters and one Deputy Chief as a result of injuries sustained off the job.
- A firefighter who remained on paid administrative leave as the result of criminal allegations against him by the Methuen Police Department.
- On-duty injury leave usage by six firefighters and one Lieutenant.
- The submission of eleven requests for the 15% longevity payments that are outlined as a benefit in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Andover Firefighters and the Town of Andover.

As you can see, all of these situations are liabilities that cannot be forecasted and are a direct result in the FY 2009 shortfall.

I will be present at your meeting scheduled for June 22, 2009 to detail this situation further and to answer any questions you may have related to this matter.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd.

Respectfully,

Michael B. Mansfield
Fire Chief

Attachment

FY2009 YEAR END BUDGET TRANSFER MOTION #2

I move to approve the following FY2009 Budget transfers in accordance with the provisions of Mass General Laws Chapter 44, Section 33B, clause b:

Transfer \$3,000 from Elder Services- Other Expenses and \$44,000 from Public Safety- Other Expenses

And appropriate \$3,000 to Elder Services- Personal Services and \$44,000 to Public Safety- Personal Services